JOHN S. RICHARDSON, JR., ? PROPRIETOR.

"God-and our Native Land."

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THE SUMTER BANNER Every Wednesday Morning

John S. Richardson, Jr.

TERMS.

TWO DOLLARS in advance, Two Dollars and Fifty Cents at the expiration of six months or Three Dollars at the end of the year.

No paper discontinued until all arrearages are pain, unless at the option of the Proprietor.
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From Wolfert's Roost.

THE WIDOW'S ORDEAL.

BY WASHINGTON IRVING.

(Conclusion)

The orisons performed, the duchesand her ladies returned, ambiling gently along the border of a forest. I was about that mellow hour of twi light when night and day are mingled and all objects are indistinct. Sad denly, some monstrons animal sprang from out a thicket, with fearful how, ings. The female body guard wathrown into confu ion, and fled different ways. It was some time beforthey recovered from their panie, and gathered once more together; but the duchess was not to be found. The greatest anxiety was felt for her safety The hazy mist of twilight had prevent ed their d stinguishing perfectly the animal which had affrighted them .-Some thought it a wolf, others a bear others a wild man of the woods -For upwards of an hour did they be leagner the forest, without daring to venture in, and were on the point of giving u the duchess as torn to pieceand devoured, when, to their great joy they beheld her advancing in the gloom, supported by a stately cava

He was a stranger knight, whon nobody knew. It was impossible to distinguish his countenance in the dark; but all the ladies agreed that he was of noble presence and captivating address. He had rescued the duchess from the very fangs of the monster, which, he assured the ladies, was neither a wolf, nor a bear, nor yet a wild man of the woods, but a veritable flery dragoon, a species of monster peculiary hostile to beautiful females in the days of chivalry, and which all the efforts of knight errantry had not been able to extirpate.

The ladies crossed themselves when they heard of the danger from which they had escaped, and could not enough admire the gallantry of the cavalier. The duchess would fain have prevailed on her deliverer to accompany her to her court, but he had no time to spare, being a knight errant, who had many adventures on hand, and many distressed damsels and afflicted widows to rescue and relieve in various parts of the country. Taking a respectful leave, therefore. He pursued his wayfaring, and the duchess and her train returned to the palace. Throughout the whole way, the ladies were unwearied in chanting the praises of the stranger knight; nay, many of them would willingly have incurred the danger of the dragoon to have enjoyed the happy deliverance of the duchess. As to the latter, she rode pensively along, but said nothing.

No sooner was the adventure of the wood made public, than a whirlwind was raised about the ears of the beautiful duchess. The blustering nephew of the deceased duke went about, armed to the teeth, with a swaggering ancle at each shoulder, ready to back him, and swore the duchess had for teited her domain. It was in vain that she ealled all the saints, and angels, and her ladies in attendance into the bargain, to witness that she had pass ed a year and a day of immaculate

ie accounted for; and into the space of me little hour sins enough may be conjured up by evil t ngues, to blast the fame of a whole life of virtue.

The two graceless uncles, who had seen the world, were ever ready to bol ter the matter through, and as they were brawny, broad shouldered warriors, and veterans in brawl as well as debauch, they had great sway with the multitude. If any one pretended to assert the innocence of the duches, they interrupted him with a loud ha! ha! of derision. "A préttý stody, truly," would they ery, "about a wolf and a dragoon, and a young widow rescued in the dark by a sturdy variet, who dares not show his face in the daylight. You may tell that to those who do not know human nature; for our parts, we know the sex, and that's

If, however, the other repeated his assertion, they would suddenly knit their brows, swell, look big, and put their hands upon their swords. As few people like to fight in a cause that does not touch their own interests the nephew and the uncles were suffer. ed to have their way, and swagger uncontradicted.

The matter was at length referred to a tribunal composed of all the dignitaries of the dukedom, and many and repeated consultations were held. The character of the duchess, through out the year was as bright and spotless as the moon in a cloudless night; one fatal hour of darkness alone intervened to celipse its brightness.-Finding human sagacity incopable of dispelling the mystery, it was determiled to leave the question to Heaven; in other words, to decide it by the ordeal of the sword -a sage tribanal in he age of chivalry. The nephew and two buily ancles were to maintain their accusation in disted combat, and s x months were allowed the duchess o provide herself with three champi ons, to meet them in the field. Should he fail in this, or should her champias be vanquished, her honor would a considered as attained, her fidelity as forfert, and her dukedom would go o the nephew, as a matter of right,

With this actermination the duch iss was fain to compay. Proclama tions were accordingly made, and heralds sent to various pasts; but day after day, week after week, and month after month, clapsed, without any enampion appearing to assert her loyalty throughout that darksome nour. The fair widow was reduced despair, when tidings reached h of grand tournaments to be held at Poledo, in celebration of the munti-Is d Don Roderick, t e last of the Goth e kings, with the morisco princes Exilona. As a last resort, the duch ess repaired to the spani h court, to couplore the gallwatly of its assembled

The ancient ity of Tolodo was a some of gorgeous revelry on the event of the royal nupt als. The youthful king, brave, ardent, and magnificent and his tovely bride, bearing with ali the radiant beauty of the east, were builed with shouts and acclaurations whenever they appeared. Their no. des vied with each other in the luxury of their attire, their prancing steeds and splendid retinues; and the haughy dames of the court appeared in a blaze of jewels.

In the midst of all the pageantly, he beautiful, but afflicted Duc es of Lorraine made her approach to the throne. She was dressed in black, and closely veiled; four duennas o the most staid and severe aspect, and six beautiful demoiselies, formed her female attendants. She was goarded by several very ancient without, and grayheaded cavaliers; and her train was borne by one of the most deform. ed and diminutive dwarfs in existence.

Advancing to the foot of the throne, she knelt down, and, throwing up her veil, revealed a countenance so beautiful that half the courtiers present were ready to renounce wives and mistresses and devote themselves to ier service; but when she made known that she came in quest of champions to defend ir fame, every chavalier pressed forward to offer his arm and sword, without inquiring into the merits of the case; for it seemed clear that so beauteous a kidy could have done nothing but what was right; and that, at an rate, she ought to be championed in following the best of

her humors, whether right or wrong. Encouraged by such gallant zeal. the duchess suffered herself to be raised from the ground and related the whole story of her distres .-When she concluded, the king remained for some time sitent, charmed by the music of her voice. At length: As I h pe for salvation, most beau tiful duchess," said he, were I not a sovereign king, and bound in duty to my kingdom, I myself would put lance in rest to vindicate your cause; as it is, I here give full permission to my knights, and promise lists and a fair

place before the walls of Toledo, in presence of my assembled court."

As soon as the pleasure of the king was known, there was a strife among the cavaliers present, for the honor of the contest. It was decided by ot, and the successful candidates were objects of great envy, for every one was ambitious of finding favor in the eyes of the beautiful widow.

Missives were sent, summoning the nephew and his two uncles to Toledo, to maintain their accusation, and a day was appointed for the combat. When the day errived, all Toledo was in commotion at an early hour. The lists had been prepared in the usual place, just without the walls, at the foot of the rugged rocks on which the city is built, and on that beautiful meadow along the Tagus, known by the name of the king's garden. The populace had already assembled, each one eager to secure a favorable place; the balconics were filled with the ladies of the court, clad in their richest attire, and bands of youthful knights, splendidly armed and decorated with their ladies' devices, were manageing their superbly comparisoned steeds about the field. The king at length came forth in state, accompanied by the queen Exilona. They took their seats in a raised balcony, under a canopy of rich damask; and, at sight of them, the people fent the air with acclamations.

The nephew and his two moles now rode into the field, armed cap-a pic, and followed by a train of cavaliers of their own roystering cast, great swear ers and carousers, arrant swashback lers, with clanking armor and jingling purs. When the people of Toledo wheld the vaunting and discourteous appearance of these knights, they were more anxious than ever for the success of the gentle duchess; but, at the same time, the stur y and stalwart warriors, showed that whoever wor the victory from them, must do it at the cost of many a bitter blow.

As the nephew and his riotous

erew rode in at one side of the field. the fair widow appeared at the other, with her suite of grave gray beaded courtiers, her ancient duennist and dainty demoiselles, and the little dwarf tolling along under the weight of her train. Every one made way for her as she passed, and blessed h r beautiful face, and prayed for suc eas to her cause. She took her sent in a lower balcony, not far from the sover eigns; and her pale face, set off by her nourning weeds, was as the moon shining forth from am ng the clouds

The trumpets sounded for the comoat. The warriors were just entering the lists, when a stranger knight, arm: ed in panoply, a d followed by two pages of an esquire, came galloping nto the field, and, riding up to the royal balcony, claimed be combat as

matter of right.
"In me," cried he, "behold the cay: dier who had the happiness to rescue he beautiful dichess from the peril of the forest, any the misfortune to being on her this grievous calumny,-It was but recently, he the course of

y ereentry, that tidings of he vrongs have reached mine cars, and I have urged hither at all speed, to stand forth in her vindication."

No somer did the duchess hear he accents of the bright, toan she recognised his voice, and joined her navers with his that he might enter the lists. The difficulty was, to deter mine which of the three champions already appointed should yield bis place, each insisting or the honor of the combat. The stranger knight would have settled the point, by taking the whole contest upon himself; but this the other knights would not per mit. It was at length determined, as before, by lot, and the cavalier who lost the chance retired mureyuring and disconsolate,

The trumpets again manded-the ists were opene. The arrogant nephew and his two drawcansir uncles appeared so completely cased in steel, that they and their steeds were liles m. ving massess of iron. When they understood the stranger knight to be the same that had regered the duchess from her peril, they greeted him with the most boisterous derision:

"O ho! sir Knight of the Dragoon, said they, "you who pretend to cham" pion fair widows in the dark, come on, and vindicate your deeds of dark ness in the open day."

The only reply of the cavalier was, to put lance in rest, and brace himself for t e encounter. Needless is it to relate the particulars of a battle, which was like so many hundred combats that have been said and sung in prose and verse. Who is there but must have foreseen the event of a contest, where Heaven had to decide on the guilt or innocence of the most beautiful and immaculate of widows?

The sagacious reader, deepty read in this kind of judicial combats, can addity. One fatul hour remained to field, and that the contest shall take imagine the encounter of the graceless

nephew and the stranger knight. He sees their conclusion, man to man, and horse to horse, in mid career, and sir Graceless hurled to the ground, and slain. He will not wonder that the assailants of the brawny uncles were less successful in their rude encounter; but he will picture to himself the stout stranger spurring to their res one, in the very critical amoment; he will see him transfixing one with his lance, and cleaving the other to the chine with a back stroke of his sword, thes leaving the trio of accusers dead upon the field; and establishing the immaculate fidelity of the dutchess, and her title to the dukedom, beyond

the shadow of a doubt. The air rang with acclamat ons; nothing was heard but praises of the beauty and virtue of the duchess, and of the prowess of the stranger knight; but the public joy was still more in creased when the champion raised his visor, and revealed the countenance of one of the bravest cavallers of Spain, renowned for his gallantry in the service of the sex, and who had been round the world in quest of similar adventures.

That worthy knight, however, was severely wounded, and remained for a long time ill of his wounds. The lovely duchess grateful for having twice owed her protection to his arm attended him da lyduring his illness; and finally rewarded his gallantry with her hand.

The king would fair have had the knight establish his title to such high advancement by farther deeds of arms; but his courtiers declared he already merited the lady, by thus vindicating her fame and fortune in a deadly com but to outrance; and the lady bersolt himted that she was perfectly satisfied of his prowess in arms, from the proofs she had received in his achievements in the forest.

Their miptials were celebrated with great insgnificence. The present husband of the duchess did not pray and fast like his predecessor. Phillibert, the wife ridden; yet he found greater favor in the eyes of Heaven, for their union was blessed with a nu. merous progeny-the daughters chaste and beauteous as their mother; the sons stout and valight as their sire, and renowned, like him, for relieving directisolate damsels and desolated

A great Medical Discovery .-Mercury taken from the System by Electricity.

The following will be received with intense interest in every comnumity, where suffering of any kind is produced by metallic substances being introduced into the system in the way of mercury, gold, silver or lend. If it is practically true, as scarcely any one can doubt, under the circumstances, it is destined to rank among the greatest discoveries that science has yet brought to light.

The article which follows, publish ed in the Scientific Bulletin, of Paris is entitled "The Application of Chem ical Electricity to Therapeutics," and has been translated for this paper .-Though not literal, the substance of the article is intact. The Bulletin Chemistry is about to drag from

on anterpated death, thousands of men, who, in the exercise of their eru el professions-gulding, looking glass plating, white lead manufacturing, &c, and also those whose systems have been rained by mercury in its various forms-for these science has raised her right arm and arrests their misery and destruction. This discovery extracts from their bodies, atom by atom, every particle of metallic substance, from every part of the Laman system. Where do we get this great hope? In a memoir presented to the French Academy of Sciences by M. Dumas, which has for its authors two men, whose names will strike the ear of the public for the first time to.day. But if they prove what they promise to, they will soon take rank among the greatest benefactors of Jumanity These authors are Andre Poly, of Havena, and Maurice Vergnes. invention consists of an application of chemical electricity to accomplish the above purpose, and of all the marvellous things things that electricity has achieved, this is the boldest and most trin aphant.

The modes operand is as follows: A meta-lic bath is insulated from eye. rything, and partially filled with neid ulated water, to convey more readily the electrical currents. The patient lies upon a seat in the tub insulated entirely from the bath. When gold, silver or mercury is in the system. nitric or hydrochloric acids are em loyed. When lead is suspected, he acid used is sulphurie. This done the negative pole of a buttery is put in connection with the badie, while the positive pole is in the Mends of the patient. Now the work of purifica-

cipitates itself, hents. digs, searches, laid down her food without speaking. and discovers every particle of metallie substance concealed in the most profound tissues, bones, joints, and serves of the patient, resolves them into their primitive forms, and ex tracting them entire from the human organism, deposites them upon the des of the bath, where they can be seen with the naked eye.

After the end of one of these opera. ions, a chemist of Havana, M. Mos. sand, having analyzed 912 drachins of the liquid in the bath, he saw form. ing a metallic globule of the diameter of nine tenths of a millimetre and this was mercury. At another time the same chemist saw a very light white precipitated substance, which gave wo globules of metallic lead, perfect. ly visible to the naked eye, and M. Poly announced that Ire had taken from the tibia and thigh bone of a pa. tent a quantity of mercury that had een there, creating intense suffering for fifteen years.

Providence has had its usual hand n this discovery. One of the inven. tors, M. Maurice Vergnes, who was engaged at times in electric gilding, silvering, &c, where his hands came in continual contact with nitrate and evanuret of gold and silver, had them covered with ulcers, caused by parti. cles of the metal being introduced into his blood, and no medical skill could eradicate them. One day he dipped his hands into the bath, taking hold of the positive pole of the batte, thing,"

ry, and at the end of fifteer prinutes. o the surprise of the bystanders, a metallic plate of 163 milli metres in length by 109 in width placed in con. nection with the negative pole of the battery, was instantly covered with a thick coat of gold and silver extracted from his hands. The discovery was made. This event took place April 6, 1852. The inventors use 30 con. ples of batteries of Bunson's and Grove's combined, it being found that a more energetic current will be evolv. ed by this combination than by the use of either singly. Each couple is 40 milli metres in diameter by 217 in height. The number of these con. ples or batteries used at the com. mencement of an application, so as not to cause too much suffering for the patient, depends altogether upon

ample, a very nervous and delicate inhabitants thereof?" person would be submitted to the ac. five couples every five minutes. A person of sangaine or lymphatic tem. perament can endure more. The ame ratio applies to the quality of acid in forming the bath; for instance it takes less for a nervous person thafor a per on with lymphatic or san. guine temperament. The metallic particles extracted from the body of the patient are deposited on the whole surface of the bathing tub, although the metal is formed in larger quanti. ties opposite those parts of the body in which the metal lay concealed. As to the size of the metallic spots which the composition of the metal. are thus formed by the application of this discovery, they vary in size from that of the head of a pin to the size of shape of the arm imprinted on the thereof." negative plate of the battery—the de.

posit being formed entirely of mercu.

y drawn from the arm." Here ends

his important article, which, if true,

is destined to become as much a part

of the medical practice as vaccination,

THE RUSSIAN SECRET POLICE. - The

secret police of Russia is apparently organized to detect plots against the sovereign, but through its mency a most terrific system of espionage i established in all circles. A sub delegate of the grand master, without any other mark than the livery of the seeret police, if he presents' himself on the darkest night before a fortress of the frontier, or the palace of a prince, governor or noble, must be ad mitted—the nuptial chamber or the bed of death are not exempt from his visits. He can arrest any one without assigning the least reason.-The family and friends of the delinquent are obliged to keeb strict sience on the subject, and when he returns, if he does return, they say, "he has been absent on business in the country." Often he is himself ignor ant of the cause of his banishment, as was lodged in a but which contained light from the sky. A sentinel stood entirely from this system of orani. vid. It is good for me to draw near tion commences. The electricity pro- always on guard without; her jailer mings

When she had been two years thus compenion. She was led to a vessel night found herself at St. Petersburg, in the bureau of the grand master of police. From a little closet was now taken the ball dress of which the functionaries had dismantled her on the night of her exile. The ornaments were gone, but except these nothing was missing-not a ribbon nor a made by Bishop Donne. When the flower. They even restored her with second became que, Hayes demanded ered boquet, in which successive gen- it of the trustees, who had doubts crations of spiders had lived and died. She was then set liberty; but never as E. N. Perkins, son of Mrs. Doane, learned the cause of her punishment or her pardon. When asked if she had not sought to enlighten herself on the subject, she replied, "I have not favor of Bishop Donne, and by him been so long in Siberia without hav-ing learned discretion." "And what

said they to your ap, earance?" "No. Tife Old Abarm Bell of Free DOM IN INDEPENDENCE HALL.—The old bell which first procla med liberty to the United Colonies from the State House steeple, and which for years in Independence Hall, now occupies a position in the hall immediately in front of the portrait of Lafayette, close by the statue of of Washington, on a pedestal designed for that purpose .-On one of the faces at the base of the pedestal is engraved the following:-The ringing of this bell first annotinced to the citizens who were anxiiously waiting the result of the delibcrations of Congress, (which were at that time held with closed doors,) that the Declaration or Independence had been decided upon; and then it was the temperament of the patient and that the bell proclaimed liberty

the nature of the disease. For ex. throughout all the land unto all the tion of ten or twelve couples at first, which it was composed, was sent over the number increased at the rate of from London ty Robert Charles, in 1750, and bore the following inscription: "By order of the assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, 1755," and underneath, " Proclaim Liberty hroughout all the land, uuto all the inhabitants thereof. Leviticus xxv, 10." The order for the bell, which weighed 2,000 pounds and cast \$500. had been communicated through Isaac Norris, Superistemlent of the State House. Soon after it had been suspended the bell cracked under the stroke of the clapper, and was recast in this country, with some change in

In the Pennsylvania Packet of June 7, 1753, the following notice appeared. Last week was raised and fixed in a pea, and some are microscopic. "I the State House steeple, the new great have seen," says M. Poly, "after the bell, cast here by Pass & Stow, first bath of a person who had been weighing 3,080 pounds, with this complaining of terrible pains in his motto. "Proclaim liberty throughout arm, caused by mercury, the exact all the hand unto all the inhabitants

From the above it will be perceived that the bell now in Independence Hall is the one which announced the

adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and the first bell of any magnitude cast on this continent. In was east by Pass & Stow, whose names repear on it, and is convosed, in part, of the original bell ordered by Mr. Norris. In 1777 the bell, with those of Christ Church and others, were removed from the cit and burried in the Delaware river, opposite Trenton, in order to prevent their destruction by the British army, which

at that period occupied the city. Phila. Cor. Balt. American. Tife CRAMMING SYSTEM .- . The School Committee of Boston have recently rescinded a regulation allowing the assignment of lessons for study out of school in the grammar school for girls. It appears that this action was taken at the instance of the city physi. eian, Dr. Clark, who, after giving his attention to the subject, had be. come convinced of the starming con. sequences growing out of such studies. The system of cramming the young the following case will illustrate: A brain-keeping up an unremitting lady, still living, was stepping out of pressure during and out of school her carriage in her ball dress when hours, as is too often the case, is pershe was arrested; her destituation was nicious in the extreme-nay, it is Siberia. When she arrived there, she wicked and suicidal. The evil is not me to have the preeminence. Let confined to Boston; we see its effects Jutlas sny, It is good for me to bear two seperate rooms, each leading to a in our own city. Cases of broken the bag. Let Demas say, it is good court some feet square, surrounded constitutions, insanity and dath, we for me to embrace the present world. by a wall which admitted only the doubt not, could be cited, resulting But say thou, Oh! my soul, with Div.

BISHOP DOANE'S DEBTS .- IMPORT TANT DECISION .- The late James Per. immured, the court door opened, and kins, of Boston, bequeathed to his second prisoner was thrust in. He widow the clear sum of \$6,000 and was a noble looking Pole, who had runlly, payable quarter yearly. She long inhabited a neighboring cell, and afterwards married the Rev. Dr. whom they displaced to make room Doane, now Episcopal Bishop of New for another. In this chamber, or rath Jersey. This gentleman being much er den, she remained twelve years embarrassed, a contract was made bewith her unhappy companion. One tween himself, Mrs. Donne and Mi. morning her door was opened, and a chael Hayes, of New Jersey; by which voice called her number, which was it was agreed that Layes should the usual mode of accosting her on the take up certain notes to a large a. few occasions when she was spoken mount, which he had endorsed for the to. She went out; the door was shut before she could take leave of her Mrs. Doane should give him an or. der on her trustees in Boston to which was in readiness, made again a pay him \$1,000 annually, for a certain pilgrimage of many months, and one number of years, until he should re. ceive one half of what he had advanced; which was about \$30,000. Hayes proceeded to take up and pay the notes, and Mrs. Doane gave him the order requesting the trustees to pay

him \$1,000 a year, as had been agreed. whether they ought to pay it; and presented an order of a subsequent date for the quarterly payment, \$1,0 endorsed,) the trustees filed a bill of equity, asking the instructions of the court.

Judge Thomas delivered the oping ion of the court on Monday, holding that the legacy to Mrs. Dorne was intended for her support, and was to be payable quarter yearly, and that she had no right to make such a coh; tract as she did make with Haves, al. past has been an object of attraction though with the consent and for the benefit of her husband, and that the same was void in law:

PUNCH AND Drougnes.-The last number of Punch contains a heartless and pitiful caricature which, with us, would do much to counteract the influence its usually witty and sensi, ble sayings are intended to exert. Our readers may remember that the late Emperor, in one of his speeches, said, "Russia has two Generals in whom she can confide-Generals Janvier and Fevrier"-(January and February) -meaning, as is sufficiently apparent; that the ellies would have a taste of those same difficulties of weather which The bell, or rather the material of manifested themselves so sensibly to Napoleon upon the occasion of his trip to Moscow. Punch's wit, stly gested by this, consists in a haggard form; intended to represent the late Czar, resting upon a bed, through whose curtains the snow is falling, and near whose head are the hour glass and empty candlestick; while upon its breast rests the bony hand of a frozen looking spectre, who, in military dress, is standing watching and waiting by its side. This spectre, be. neath whose cold skeleton touch the figure upon the couch is expiring, is "General Fevrier," and underneath the whole is written "General Fevrier Turned Traitor!" We could very readily anticipate the ridiculous demaonstrations of joy which must natu. rally take place in England upon the death of the man whom England had greatest cause to fear; but we hardly expected from Punch so thor. oughly heartless and indecent a chuc. kle of exultation over the misfortunes of an enemy .- Charleston Standard.

~...d.i. The Langest Liendry in the WORLD .- The Paris correspondent of the Providence Journal writes that the Bibliotheque Nationale, in the Rue Richelieu, contains at the present time fourteen hundred thousand volumes. or about four times the whole number of books in the public libraries of Massachuse:ts. The volumes are most y in handsome binding of col. ored leather enriched with gilt, and are placed in solid walls from floor to ceiling, with net work for protection as high as the hand can reach:-

A SHORT SERMON -In a time of much religious excitement, and conse; quent discussion, an honest old Dutch armer of the Mohawk, was asked his opinion as to which denomination of Christian's were in the right way to heaven.

"Well, den!" said lib; "ven we ride" our wheat to Albany, some say dis is de best road; and some say dat is the best; but it don't ninke much difference which road we take; for when we get dare, dey never ask us which way we come-and it is none of deir business, if our wheat is good!"

THE GOOD CHOICE. The piblis Bishop Arrow Smith once exclaimed: "Let Diotrophes say. It is good for

my I dealler